

WESTBROOK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2010

Members present: Chairman Tom ODell, Bob Peterson, Marty Marx, Mike Oryl and Randy Bell.

Call to Order: Chairman Tom ODell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Julie Blum; Chemical Testing and Bioassessment of a Westbrook Stream: Julie Blum gave a great presentation on testing she did on Spring Lot Brook and the affect of the Westbrook Watershed. Chairman ODell will send a thank you letter to Ms. Blum for a great job.

Minutes – December 15, 2009: Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by Marty Marx, it was: **VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the minutes of December 15, 2009, as amended.

Bills: Upon a motion by Randy Bell, seconded by Bob Peterson, it was: **VOTED:** Unanimously to approve payment of the following bills: \$38.70 to Kathleen Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

Correspondence:

1. Newest edition of Habitat.
2. Notice from the First Selectman that a seminar will be held on 2/4/2010 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. regarding Communication and Cooperation.
3. Notification of deadline for Winter edition of Westbrook Events.
4. Memo from Town Planner Meg Parulis regarding proposed changed to the Zoning Regulations. There will be a public hearing on 2/23/2010.
5. Copy of CT Town and City Report from CCM.

Chairman's Report:

1. Chairman ODell asked for a motion to add to the agenda.
Upon a motion by Randy Bell, seconded by Marty Marx, it was:
VOTED: Unanimously to add "Proposed CT State DEP Stream Flow Standards & Regulations" to the agenda.
2. Clinton now has a separate Conservation Commission. Chairman ODell will be attending their 2/9/10 meeting.
3. Chairman ODell will be attending a staff meeting with the new representative from Woodard and Curren on 1/20/10 at 10:00 a.m.

Open Space Program:

- **Open Space Fund: Change name designation:** Chairman ODell stated that he would like to write a letter to the Town Treasurer to request that the "Small City Lake Laconia" account name be changed to "Open Space CT DEP Grant".
Upon a motion by Marty Marx, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:
VOTED: Unanimously to authorize Chairman ODell to write a letter to the Town Treasurer requesting a name change to Small City Lake Laconia Account.
- **Open Space Plan: validating open space parcels:** Chairman ODell stated that Town Planner Meg Parulis is close to finishing the validation of Open Space Parcels, which includes all restricted and non-restricted parcels.

- **Russo Property: Land appraisals, development application:** Chairman ODell stated that the request for \$5,000.00 for the land appraisal was approved by the Board of Selectmen and they forwarded the request to the Board of Finance. Once the money is approved, we will move forward with a summary appraisal. If it is decided to move forward with the purchase of the property, TPL will help. Marty Marx asked about the timing for the next round of grants. Chairman ODell stated that he is not aware of any grants at this time, but, the new session hasn't started yet. The Russo family has approached TPL twice about selling this land to the Town.
- **Horse Hill Gorge: Potential addition of Ross 7.5 acres:** Chairman ODell stated that he received an e-mail from Steve Ross and he is unable to get a price for the parking lot. John Riggio has been asked to look at it. The property has been quit deeded, so now Mr. Ross, his daughter and son-in-law are now the owners of the property. They are ready to move forward and have suggested that Chairman Odell contact TPL. An appraisal will be need to be done. There have already been 2 summary appraisals done previously. Another summary appraisal should be done. We still have funds available to do this from money that was already appropriated.
- **Salt Island Overlook – Report for DEP:** Chairman ODell stated that he does not have any costing information on pervious block. The Town Engineers have stated that they do not like pervious concrete. More information will be available at the next meeting. Chairman ODell is looking into whether there will be another License Plate Grant available.
- **Chapman Mill Pond: Lake cleaning contract and Dam Maintenance: schedule meeting:** Chairman ODell stated that the Town is responsible for 625% of the cleaning cost. The company who will be doing the work is willing to split the billing accordingly so that the town will not have to pay taxes. The Sjongay's would like to meet with the Commission to discuss the Dam Maintenance. The meeting will be scheduled for some time in late February.

Mulvey Environment Education Walkway: Intern: Brenden Gooley has worked for the Commission for 4 years and would like to continue this summer. He is a very responsible individual and is also willing to work on the trails at other locations.

Plan of Conservation and Development: There have not been any meetings lately. They will be meeting on 1/25/2010 to discuss affordable housing issues.

Old Business:

- **IWWL; 2009-002-P-I, Glen Miele, Horse Hill Road, 52.1 Ac., Conservation Subdivision: Review by Town Engineers:** Chairman ODell stated that this application has been withdrawn.
- **Mapping ground water recharge areas: review attached project:** At this time, Wesleyan students are selecting their projects. At this time, Chairman ODell is still hoping to get the Town of Clinton interested and possibly Killingworth as well.

New Business:

- **Proposed CT State DEP Stream Flow Standards & Regulations:**

Chairman ODell stated that there will be a public hearing on this and any comments must be directed to the CT DEP by February 4, 2010. Chairman ODell stated that he feels it is important for this Commission to support the regulations and to draft a letter of support. All streams in Westbrook will be affected as well as the Menunketesuck and Patchaug Rivers. All enforcement will be handled by Land Use departments (IWWC, Planning and Zoning).

Upon a motion by Randy Bell, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to send a letter from the Commission in support of the proposed CT State DEP Stream Flow Standards and Regulations.

Reports:

- Planning Commission: Nothing to report.
- Zoning Commission: The Commission is currently revising their regulations.
- Inland Wetlands Commission: Nothing to report.
- Harbor Commission: Nothing to report.
- Town Center Revitalization Committee: Nothing to report.

Upon a motion by Marty Marx seconded by Randy Bell, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary